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LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF GEORGIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint message addressed to you by B. N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, and E. A. Shevardnadze, Chairman of Parliament and Head of State of the Republic of Georgia, in connection with the lack of a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the
United Nations

(Signed) G. Z. VOLSKI
Acting Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Georgia to the
United Nations

Annex

We are addressing you in connection with the lack of a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. We note with satisfaction the attention the international community has been paying to this serious problem, which poses a real threat to both regional and international peace and security. We appreciate the efforts of the United Nations Security Council and the assistance you personally and your Special Envoy, Edouard Brunner, have been providing in the search for ways to restore a lasting peace in the region.

However, we also view as necessary a substantial and urgent increase in the international community's involvement in the settlement of the conflict. In the course of the Geneva talks held under the auspices of the United Nations with the assistance of Russia, it became obvious that only the deployment of a neutral peace-keeping force in the zone of conflict would be capable of providing the basic measure of external support to the political process that would promote a gradual but steady stabilization of the situation. Such a step, which calls for courage, would create favourable conditions for solving the humanitarian problems, the most important of which is to ensure the return of about 200,000 refugees and displaced persons in safety and dignity; it would also hasten the reaching of agreement regarding the political status of Abkhazia with full respect for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

We once again propose that the Security Council consider, in the very near future, the question of a peace-keeping operation to be carried out by the United Nations or with its authorization, relying, if necessary, on a Russian military contingent. In order to ensure close coordination of action, the number of United Nations international observers in the crisis zone would need to be increased.

We also count on material support for such an operation from the international community. To this end we propose, in particular, that a special fund for voluntary contributions should be established, along the lines of similar funds for United Nations operations in Liberia, Somalia, etc. The resources of this fund would be assigned to cover transport and other expenses related to the activities of the peace-keeping force, the creation of conditions for the return of refugees to their places of permanent residence, and the restoration of vital infrastructure in the affected area.

(Signed) B. YELTSIN
President of the
Russian Federation

(Signed) E. SHEVARDNADZE
Chairman of Parliament,
Head of State of the Republic
of Georgia

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LETTER DATED 7 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter of the letter dated 6 February 1994 from the President of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Suleyman Demirel, addressed to the heads of State of some countries which are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union and the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia concerning the recent Serbian attack on the civilian targets in Saravejo.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Inal BATU
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 6 February 1994 from the President of the Republic of Turkey to certain heads of State

I was shocked to hear of the resumption of the shelling of Sarajevo, killing many innocent civilians and maiming hundreds. The fact that it was carried out on a Saturday, when families go out for shopping, and that the target was the market place makes this heinous act all the more criminal and necessitates immediate and resolute measures against the aggressors.

The attack is yet another example of the blatant violation of international law and in particular all the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations on the question of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Yesterday's indiscriminate shelling confirms once again that the innocent inhabitants of Sarajevo are left at the mercy of the Serbian aggressors.

The attack is also the latest display of the strangulation of Sarajevo, a so-called "safe area" under United Nations resolutions. It has become imperative for the international community to take military action against the aggressors in order to put an end to the bloodshed and to force them to accept a just and lasting peace.

As you would recall, the NATO Council of Foreign Ministers adopted a decision in August last year, by which they agreed that the alliance would take military action if the "strangulation" in the United Nations-declared safe areas in Bosnia, including Sarajevo, continued.

The current situation in Sarajevo actually goes beyond that of "strangulation" and requires immediate military action.

Therefore, it is high time that the necessary decision for military action against the aggressor is taken and is implemented by NATO in order to put an end to the ongoing human tragedy and suffering.

Moreover, the United Nations Security Council should also adopt a decision for the immediate lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of the recent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. This will allow the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to use their inherent right to defend themselves.

I appeal for your Excellency's personal support in initiating immediate action on these two options.

With my best regards.

Suleyman DEMIREL
President of the
Republic of Turkey